

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-03 HEW-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 L-02

/050 W

----- 085844

R 171230Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5990

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BL

SUBJECT: FAMILY PLANNING CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

REF: LAPAZ1785

1. IN ADDITION TO THE REACTION REPORTED IN REFTEL, ON MARCH 12 EL COMERCIO OF SANTA CRUZ CARRIED AN EDITORIAL SUPPORTIVE OF THE BISHOPS STATEMENT ON THE EVILS OF ARTIFICIAL BIRTH CONTROL METHODS AND AID'S ROLE IN PROPAGATING THEIR USE.

2. THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUED TO ATTRACT PRESS ATTENTION ON MARCH 13 AND 14, BUT LARGELY IN THE CHURCH-RELATED LA PAZ PRESENCIA. ON MARCH 13, PRESENCIA FRONTPAGED A CHARGE BY MONS. LUIS RODRIGUEZ, BISHOP OF SANTA CRUZ, THAT AID HAD DELIVERED A CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF BIRTHCONTROL PILLS AND DEVICES TO SANTA CRUZ FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION ESPECIALLY AMONG RURAL WOMEN. ON MARCH 14, PRESENCIA PUBLISHED THE VIEW OF FRANCISCO ROQUE RODRIQUEZ' CHARGES WERE PROFF POSITIVE OF US INTERVENTION IN BOLIVIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

ANOTHER PRESENCIA ARTICLE CARRIED A RESTATEMENT OF THE GOB'S POSITION (SEE REFTEL) AS PPRESENTED BY THE UNDERSECRETARY OF WORSHIP OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. A LARGE AD WAS PLACED IN PRESENCIA BY CARITAS BOLIVIANA  
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STRONGLY ATTACKING CHARGES THAT US DONATED FOOD

DISTRIBUTED BY CARITAS IN ORURO CONTAINED CONTRACEPTIVE ADDITIIVES. GOVERNMENT-RELATED HOY CARRIED THE VIEWS OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS ATTACKING THE ALLEGATIONS MADE CONCERNING THE CARITAS DISTRIBUTED FOOD.

3. AMBASSADOR STEDMAN WAS QUESTIONED BY A REPORTER ON MARCH 13. HIS REPLIES WERE USED IN PART IN AN ARTICLE IN PRESENCIA ON MARCH 14 AND ALSO ON THE RADIO. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE BELIEVED THE GOB'S STATEMENT OF POSITION IN THIS ISSUE (SEE REFTTEL) WAS SOLID. HE EMPHASIZED THE INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN FAMILY PLANNING MATTERS. HE DECLINED TO BE DRAWN LIGHTLY INTO DEBATE ON SO SERIOUS AND COMPLEX AN ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: THE CONTROVERSY IS ENABLING SOME PERSONS WITH LATENT ANTI-US SENTIMENT TO AIR THEIR VIEWS IN THE MEDIA, BUT IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR THAT THE ANTI-BIRTH CONTROL CAMPAIGN CAN OR WILL BE SUSTAINED FOR AN APPRECIABLE TIME EXCEPT THROUGH PRESENCIA AND PERHAPS RADIO FIDES.  
STEDMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIRTH CONTROL, PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LAPAZ01867  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750092-0662  
**From:** LA PAZ  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LAPAZ1785  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FAMILY PLANNING CONTROVERSY CONTINUES  
**TAGS:** EAID, SOCI, BL, (RODRIGUEZ, LUIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006